

EDWARD W. NORTONI.

JANUARY 27, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CROWTHER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9616.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9616) to increase the pension of Edward W. Nortoni, having carefully considered the same, respectfully report:

Edward Warren Nortoni was assistant surgeon of the Fifty-ninth Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers, and has an excellent service record, having performed much arduous labor in the Army, especially while in charge of the First Division, Ninth Army Corps, hospitals at Fredericksburg, Va., during the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania.

He is now pensioned at \$30 per month for chronic diarrhea and disease of liver. His claim for increase was rejected July 16, 1896, notwithstanding the examining surgeon who examined him March 27, 1896, described a very severe case of chronic diarrhea, piles, disease of liver, stomach, spleen, and heart, and said he could not live more than a year or two, and required the frequent and periodical aid and attention of another person. He said claimant is sometimes confined to his bed for weeks, and is confined to his room most of the time, and has known him to have acute attacks of dyspepsia and gastralgia, one to last four weeks about six months previous.

Dr. Evan Jones testifies that he has been claimant's family physician for five years, and has treated him for aggravated attacks of chronic diarrhea, disease of liver, dyspepsia, and piles several times during the past year. He is totally and permanently disabled by said diseases for performing manual labor, and, to affiant's knowledge, he requires frequent and periodical attendance of another person.

Dr. J. A. Peyton testifies that he has known pensioner for seven years, and has frequently seen him as consulting physician during that time; finds him almost a physical wreck from chronic diarrhea and results. Also has a very severe form of dyspepsia, for which he is continually under treatment; also a torpid liver and hemorrhoids. The least exertion brings on hurried and difficult breathing with great fatigue. He is wholly incapacitated for manual labor and needs and has almost constant attention from another person.

In addition to above, which are filed in his pension claim, Dr. Henry Shock, a practicing physician, aged 75 years, after carefully describing this soldier's deplorable condition, testifies that from long-standing disease of bowels and liver, with their results, he is so totally disabled as to need the constant care and attention of another person.

Dr. J. A. Peyton, a physician of eighteen years' practice, in a recent affidavit describes his condition and says his disabilities are total, positive, and permanent, and that he requires the aid and attention of another person all the time.

H. R. Southwick, who has resided in the same house with pensioner for five years and seen him daily, and William D. Roberts, a justice of the peace, living in same block, testify from personal knowledge and frequent observation that soldier needs the constant aid and attention of another person.

From the facts presented by incontrovertible testimony, undiluted with theoretical fancies which have deprived this deserving soldier of justice, the committee have no hesitation in recommending the passage of the bill, after being amended by striking out in line 5 the words "of New Cambria, Macon County, Missouri," and by striking out all of the printed bill after the word "pension" first occurring in line 8, and inserting in lieu thereof the words "of seventy-two dollars per month, in lieu of the pension he now receives."

Also amend the title so as to read: "A bill to increase the pension of Edward W. Nortoni."

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